

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, EG

SUBJECT: EFFORT TO FORM POLITICAL "PARTY"

1. EGYPTIAN WEEKLY ROSE AL-YUSUF REPORTED JANUARY 19 THAT ABD AL-AZIZ AL-SHURBAGI, PROMINENT EGYPTIAN LAWYER, INTENDS TO ANNOUNCE FORMATION OF A NEW POLITICAL "PARTY" AND IS PREPARED TO FIGHT ANY LEGAL ACTION GOE MAY TAKE AGAINST SUCH MEASURE. MAGAZINE NOTES THERE IS "BAN" ON FORMATION OF POLITICAL PARTIES IN EGYPT, BUT THAT SHURBAGI BELIEVES EGYPTIAN CONSTITUTION GUARANTEES TO CITIZENS RIGHT TO FORM PARTIES.

2. COMMENT: WE UNDERSTAND THAT SHURBAGI IS SERIOUS ABOUT HIS INTENTION CHALLENGE BAN ON PARTIES. HE HAS INFORMED RELIABLE LOCAL JOURNALIST THAT HE HAS SET UP PREPARATORY COMMITTEE OF THREE TO WRITE PLATFORM. SO FAR WE ARE NOT AWARE OF POLITICAL COLORATION OF NEW GROUP WHICH WILL BE CALLED "DEMOCRATIC PARTY". JOURNALIST WHO HAS DISCUSSED ISSUE WITH SHURBAGI TELLS US THAT LATTER WILL RELY ON SPIRIT OF CONSTITUTION, AND WILL POINT OUT THAT 1953/LAW BANNED EXISTING, POLITICAL PARTIES BUT DID NOT BAN FORMATION OF NEW PARTIES. REPORTEDLY, SHURBAGI INTENDS IN NEXT FEW DAYS TO ANNOUNCE FORMATION OF PARTY AND APPLY FOR LICENSE TO MININT. HE BELIEVES COURT CASE WILL EMERGE

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AFTER SUCH APPLICATION, SINCE EITHER MININT WILL SUE

HIM FOR MAKING ILLEGAL APPLICATION OR HE WILL SUE MININT
FOR REFUSING ISSUE LICENSE.

3. SHURBAGI'S CHALLENGE TO SADAT'S NOTION OF GRAUDAL
EMERGENCE OF POLITICAL DISCUSSION GROUPS WITHIN ASU (TO
BE FOLLOWED AFTER INTERVAL OF SOME YEARS BY CONTROLLED
REEMERGENCE OF POLITICAL PARTIES) IS OBVIOUS. PRESSURE
ON SHURBAGI NOT TO PROCEED MUST BE TREMENDOUS AND WE ARE
BEGINNING TO HEAR THAT HE MAY HAVE POSTPONED HIS PLANS
FOR SOME TIME.
EILTS

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